

BCPSEA Responses to BCTF and Local Teachers' Association Statements

BCTF News Release September 16, 2005	
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<p>Teacher bargainers were astonished and outraged by yesterday's misleading announcement by the B.C. Public School Employers' Association that teachers' proposals would add up to a 35% increase.</p> <p>"That is simply a fabricated number with no connection whatsoever to reality," said BCTF President Jinny Sims. "We have not yet tabled a salary figure, so for the employer to put out this wildly inflated number is highly irresponsible."</p>	<p>BCPSEA has costed the proposals currently on the table from the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) as being in excess of a 35% increase annually.</p> <p>BCPSEA shared our costing with the BCTF at our bargaining session on September 7, 2005.</p> <p>The BCTF indicated they do not agree with our costing. We asked the BCTF to provide us with specific information as to where they disagree with our costing. They have refused to do so.</p> <p>The BCTF has not provided BCPSEA with a specific salary proposal. What they have said is that they are seeking an increase comparable to increases received by teachers in Alberta and Ontario, and the cost of living. We have therefore costed their salary demand based on those assumptions.</p> <p>We have asked the BCTF to table a specific salary proposal. They have refused.</p>
<p>"In the last round we tabled improvements to maternity leave," Sims said. "When BCPSEA calculated the cost, they assumed every single teacher of child-bearing age would become pregnant within the three-year life of the contract. It was absurd!"</p>	<p>BCPSEA's methodology for calculating the cost of maternity leave in the last round of bargaining was shared with the BCTF at that time.</p> <p>The BCPSEA costing calculations were based on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We received actual maternity leave usage from six districts throughout the province representing approximately 25% of the teaching population. 2. We determined that 4.04% of female teachers in the sample districts accessed maternity leave. 3. We applied the 4.04% to the total number of female teachers to determine the number of teachers likely to access maternity leave across the province 4. We costed the BCTF proposal based on that level of access.

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"As far as we are concerned, we are still at the bargaining table today with a proposal, and we are available over the weekend and 24-7 to reach a negotiated settlement," Sims said. "Our members will take a democratic vote next week, and the results will be reported next Friday."

There was no planned bargaining session today between the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) and the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF).

The BCTF contacted BCPSEA last evening and indicated that they wanted to put another proposal with cost implications on the table.

We confirmed with the BCTF that they have still not moved off their position that they have no interest in negotiating a collective agreement under the net zero compensation mandate. They confirmed that is still the case; we indicated that talks today would therefore be unproductive.